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# Community *notes*

## County Holiday Observances

Howard County Government offices, courts, 50+ Centers and animal shelter will be closed in observance of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday on Monday, January 16. However, regular trash, recycling and food scrap services will be in effect and the Alpha Ridge Landfill will be open. The Regional Transportation Agency (RTA) will operate on a regular weekday schedule; call RTA, 1-800-270-9553 or visit [www.transitrt.com](http://www.transitrt.com).

All parking regulations and fees will be in effect on January 16.

The 9-1-1 Center, Police and Fire departments remain staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For emergencies, call 9-1-1; for non-emergencies, call 410-313-2200.

County offices will re-open at regular business hours on Tuesday, January 17.

### CLOSED on Monday, January 16

County Government Offices	Courts
Animal Shelter	50+ Centers
Robinson Nature Center	Historic Sites

### OPEN on Monday, January 16

Alpha Ridge Landfill	County Parks
All trash, recycling and food scrap services	
Community Centers	
Cedar Lane Activity Room	
Schooley Mill Activity Room	
Meadowbrook Athletic Complex	
Ellicott City Colored School Restored	
RTA regular weekday schedule	

## Greetings

The quality, not the longevity, of one's life is what is important.

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

## Serve Your Community, Celebrate Our History

The Howard County Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission will present its annual celebration of the life and legacy of civil rights leader Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on **Sunday, January 15** at Long Reach High School, 6101 Old Dobbin Lane in Columbia; the reception will begin at 2:00 p.m. and the program at 3:00 p.m. The celebration is free to the public; however, attendees are asked to bring a non-perishable food item to support Howard County's Food Bank.

This year's event will feature recognition of the 2016 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Living the Dream" award recipients and Student Essay Contest winners (Click [here](#) for more information).



Residents are also encouraged to sign-up to take part in the County's "**Day of Service Across Howard County**" Project on **Monday, January 16**. Volunteer opportunities include: Hands-Only CPR and "Stop the Bleed" training, shelving food donations and assisting Days End Farm Horse Rescue. Those interested in volunteering on the 16<sup>th</sup>, should visit [The Volunteer Center website](#) to sign-up or to learn more about "Day of Service Across Howard County" opportunities. All volunteers are invited to attend a kick-off celebration at 8:00 a.m. at the Gateway Building, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive in Columbia.

## Celebrating Our Children

Howard County Government is seeking nominees of people, programs and businesses that have made a positive impact on the lives of Howard County children for the 18<sup>th</sup> annual “Celebrating Successes for Children” awards program.

The Celebrating Successes awards program honors people, programs or businesses that make a difference and serve children in one of the following categories:

- Infants and Toddlers (0-3 years)
- Preschool-Age Children (3-5 years)
- Elementary-Age Children (Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup>)
- Middle School-Age Children (6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>)
- High School-Age Children (9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>)
- Mixed-Aged Group (person or program that works with children of different ages)
- Making a Difference Youth Award (an individual under age 18 who has made a difference in the community)
- Family-Friendly Business Award (a Howard County business – NOT child care – that stands out because of its policies or service to children and families)

While an individual nominee does not have to be a resident of Howard County, he or she must serve Howard County children; however, program or business nominees must be located in Howard County. **Nominations are due by Friday, March 3.**

Nominations will be accepted [online](#) through Friday, March 3. For more information, or to request a nomination form in an alternate format, contact the Office of Children and Families at 410-313-1940 (voice/relay) or [email](#). Nominees will be recognized during the Month of the Young Child at the County’s 18<sup>th</sup> annual “Celebrating Successes for Children” ceremony on Wednesday, April 26 at Ten Oaks Ballroom, 5000 Signal Bell Lane in Clarksville.

## Family First: Parenting Series

Join the Howard County Family Institute for a special series designed for parents and guardians raising children from birth to age eight. Learn about child development, how to encourage self-esteem and good behavior, positive guidance and discipline, and how to keep children safe and healthy. Each class, offered in an interactive group format, will include practical tips and advice for handling common situations, as well as hands-on activities. Participants who complete all five classes can receive a Certificate of Completion upon request.

When: Wednesdays, Winter 2017; 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Location: Ellicott City 50+ Fitness Center (9411 Frederick Road, Ellicott City)

Cost: \$8 per class (**child care will NOT be available**)

Purpose: Any parent, grandparent or caregiver who wants to improve their parenting skills and learn hands on ideas for raising a healthy, happy child ages birth to eight.

Registration Options: [Online](#) or by Phone (voice/relay): 410-313-1940

## Howard County Public Works Host Public Meetings

The Department of Public Works will hold two public meetings to discuss the findings from a comprehensive assessment of the main stem of the county’s Patuxent River and the Patapsco River watersheds.

The assessment measured the current environmental conditions and identified restoration opportunities that could be considered for capital improvement projects. These projects would help improve water quality in the County’s streams and rivers, and ultimately, the Chesapeake Bay. Projects being considered include: stream restoration; adding water quality treatment to existing stormwater management ponds; constructing new stormwater management facilities; performing reforestation and stabilizing existing storm drain pipe outfalls.



With both watersheds encompassing such a large area, the assessment was split into five study areas: the South Branch Patapsco River; Lower North

Branch Patapsco River; Brighton Dam/Triadelphia Reservoir; Rocky Gorge Reservoir and Upper Patuxent River watersheds. A map depicting the five study areas is available on the County’s website. To reflect these study areas, the department will hold two public meetings:

- Brighton Dam/Triadelphia Reservoir, Rocky Gorge Reservoir and Upper Patuxent River Watersheds  
Monday, January 23, Gary J. Arthur Community Center, 2400 Route 97, Dayton Room, Cooksville, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
- South Branch Patapsco River and Lower North Branch Patapsco River Watersheds  
Thursday, January 26, Roger Carter Community Center, 3000 Milltowne Road, Ellicott City, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

County representatives will share with attendees the findings of field studies, describe the next steps in the assessment study, review possible restoration techniques and priority restoration sites and discuss the status of the countywide plan to meet local and Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load goals.

An interpreter for people who are deaf or hard of hearing will be available if requested seven working days prior to the meeting. Please call the Department of Community Resources and Services at 410-313-6400 (voice) or use Relay at 7-1-1, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

An RSVP is requested, but not required, for those planning to attend a meeting. To RSVP or for questions or more information about Capital Project D-1148, contact Christine Lowe with the Department of Public Works’ Stormwater Management Division at [csolowe@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:csolowe@howardcountymd.gov).

## Howard County MIHU Open Enrollment

The Howard County Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is now accepting applications for its [Moderate Income Housing Unit \(MIHU\) program](#) during its first open enrollment period for 2017. Applications for the MIHU homeownership program will be accepted now through January 31.

DHCD will hold two free MIHU workshops to explain the program's eligibility requirements and application process for prospective homebuyers and renters. The MIHU Renters Workshop will be held on Tuesday, January 17 and the MIHU Homebuyers Workshop will take place on Wednesday January 18 and will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Gateway Building, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive. Guidewell Financial Solutions will be on hand to present information regarding the importance of credit scores in the home buying and rental processes.

In addition, DHCD will also offer a free First-Time Homebuyer's Workshop on Monday, January 23, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the Gateway Building. Held monthly, this workshop focuses on the critical areas of home buying, from homeownership readiness and budgeting and credit usage, to financing a home. Registration is required for this workshop. To register, interested persons should call 410-313-6328 or [email](#). For more information or to register for a workshop, contact DHCD's Housing Opportunities Programs Division at 410-313-6343.

## Community Classes - Brought to Your Location

The Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services is offering FREE classes. And remember, they come to you. Here are the classes they offer:

- **NEWEST- Remembering When**

This is an hour long class for adults 65 and older that discusses fire safety and fall prevention in the home. We want everyone to be safe and stay in their home as long as possible. This program also includes a FREE home assessment.

- **NEW- Basics of Bleeding Control**

This is also an hour long class for any age that teaches how to control life threatening bleeding. Injuries can happen very quickly and a person can bleed out of their body in a matter of a few minutes. Knowing what to do can save that person's or even your life.

- **CLASSIC- Hands-Only CPR & AED Training**

This can be an hour or two hour long class that instructs the importance of using just your hands in performing Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). When a person's heart stops each minute that goes by their chance of survival decreases by 10%. Minutes count so knowing what to do is critical to helping save their life. An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) can help increase that persons chance of survival if used with Hands-Only CPR.

Please note that these are non-certification classes. Sign up at [hcdfrs.org](http://hcdfrs.org), [outreach@hcdfrs.org](mailto:outreach@hcdfrs.org) or 410-313-2016.

## Road to Kindergarten Workshops for Parents

The Howard County Public School System's Office of Early Childhood Programs and the Howard County Early Childhood Advisory Council are pleased to sponsor a Launch Into Learning initiative called "The Road to Kindergarten," an informational opportunity to support families of children headed to kindergarten next year. Each session will present necessary information pertaining to kindergarten, such as the registration process, school readiness, kindergarten expectations, and curriculum. The purpose of these sessions is to help make the process of entering school less stressful for all involved. Families of children turning five by September 1 are invited to come with questions and concerns pertaining to the transition to the kindergarten process.



Information sessions will be held 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.:

**Wednesday, January 25 - Oakland Mills High School** (9410 Kilimanjaro Road, Columbia)

**Thursday, January 26 - Centennial High School** (4300 Centennial Lane, Ellicott City)

**Monday, January 30 - Hammond High School\*** (8800 Guilford Road, Columbia)

**\*LIVE STREAM on January 30 at 6:30 p.m. <http://www.hcpss.org/events/2017/road-to-kindergarten/>**

If Howard County public schools are closed for inclement weather, the session will be canceled.

**Post your questions on:** Twitter @HCPSS\_ECP #HCPSSR2K or Facebook @ HoCo.road.to.kindergarten

Child care is provided at each session for children ages two and older. Please allow at least 15-30 minutes for child care sign in, as the session will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. Child care providers are also encouraged to attend in order to learn useful information that will help them assist their families.

## HaitiFest

Columbia Association (CA) invites the community to HaitiFest, on Sunday, January 22, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. at Slayton House, 10400 Cross Fox Lane, Wilde Lake Village Center. This free event is being held in celebration of the cultures of the Caribbean island as well as the establishment of a sister city relationship between the communities of Columbia and Cap-Haitien. Attendees are encouraged to wear Haitian and Caribbean dress. The program will include Haitian music, dance and drum performances, art displays, book signings, and information on The Build Haiti Foundation's Global Leadership Program, which will send teens and adults to Haiti in July 2017.

A snow date for HaitiFest has been set for Sunday, February 5, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. at Slayton House. For additional information, please contact [Laura Smit](#).



## Howard County Public Works News

A Howard County construction project (Capital Project W-8296) to improve a retention stormwater management pond in the vicinity of 6430 Fairest Dream Lane in Columbia is expected to begin on or about Monday, January 23. The project will replace the existing riser structure and principal spillway, add a forebay to trap sediment, deepen the pond to provide water quality, and provide stabilization to the outfall and downstream receiving stream through the use of stone structures, bank protection and riparian plantings. Weather permitting, the project is expected to be completed by the end of May 2017.

The project is not expected to impact the flow of traffic. Signs will be posted near the site to advise motorists and pedestrians of the construction. However, the walking path located between 6428 and 6432 Fairest Dream Lane and the walking path around the stormwater management pond will be closed during construction.



A construction project (Capital Project D-1159) is underway to install a water main along MD175 and Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia. The project will include the installation of approximately 9,000 linear feet of 36-inch water pipe to provide redundancy to the Howard County water distribution system. The majority of the work will take place along the southbound shoulder of Little Patuxent Parkway between Columbia Road and South Entrance Road.

Weather permitting, the project is expected to be completed by late April 2017. A portion of southbound Little Patuxent Parkway in the vicinity of the project will be closed from approximately January 17, 2017 to mid-March 2017. During the closure, traffic will follow a marked detour using Governor Warfield Parkway.



A Howard County construction project (Capital Project D-1158) to restore approximately 1,700 linear feet of stream in the vicinity of 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia is underway. The unnamed tributaries to the Little Patuxent River have been heavily impacted by stormwater and eroded significantly. The project will include the use of wood and rock structures to reestablish a more natural stream, reducing instream erosion and improving water quality. Weather permitting, the project is expected to be completed by late August 2017.

The project is not expected to impact the flow of traffic in the area. Signs will be posted in the area to alert residents of the project.

For questions or concerns about any of these projects, contact Lisa Brightwell, Public Works Customer Service, at 410-313-3440 or [email](#).

## Reminders

### [Wilde Readings](#) with the HoCoPoLitSo

**Tuesday, January 17, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.**

#### **The Columbia Art Center**

Monthly reading and open mic series. Ann Bracken hosts a night of poetry with Grace Cavalieri (author of new book *WITH*) and Merrill Leffler (Takoma Park's Poet Laureate). All are welcome to participate in the open mic. Please prepare no more than five minutes of performance time/two poems. Sign up in advance by calling the Columbia Arts Center (410- 730-0075).

### [Know Before You Owe](#): A Student Loan Forum &Resource Fair

**Wednesday, January 18, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.**

#### **HCC, Student Services Hall, Room 400**

Advance [registration](#) is encouraged for those attending in person and is required to participate via webcast.

### **Preschool/Child Care Information Fair: "Children On Board"**

**Sunday, January 29, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

#### **Ten Oaks Ballroom (5000 Signal Bell Lane, Clarksville)**

Admission is free; however, attendees are asked to bring a nonperishable food item or unopened pack of diapers to donate to the Howard County Food/Diaper Bank.



Mary Kay Sigaty

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